The Wittnauer Mint
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THE MEDALLIC COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

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Virginia Culver Elected First Woman Prexy of A. N. A.

Since its founding 85 years ago, the American Numismatic Association has never before had a woman president. At the Boston Convention in August, Virginia Culver won that honor after an unusually controversial campaign, defeating the incumbent President, Grover C. Criswell, by 53% of the votes cast. (A. N. A. membership is 28,000—but not all members voted for president, presumably because they were unable to decide between the two candidates.)

Traditionally, the elections in past years have been a simple matter of "promoting" or moving up elected members of the Board of Governors to the Vice Presidency and then to the Presidency. This aroused little interest in campaigns, which were nominal, except when a vacancy on the Board of Governors occurred.

However, last Spring the then-President Criswell shook things up by announcing that he would challenge this procedure and would run against Ms. Culver, then the Vice President, in the coming campaign. There ensued many heated and often bitter exchanges of charges and countercharges. Much of this literally filled the pages of the Association's magazine, "The Numismatist," throughout the summer. But much of the voting was done by mail, so that by the time of the convention, the bickering had simmered down—although there were some spirited shouts for both candidates when the actual election took place. Some members pointed out that the battle might be a good thing for the A. N. A. in the long run, because members will now take much more interest in elections than they did in the past.

Unfortunately, by running for President and losing, Mr. Criswell also lost his seat on the Board of Governors, which he would have retained automatically had he stepped aside and let Ms. Culver "move up the line" to President. But Criswell is a devoted numismatist and A. N. A. member, so he will no doubt continue to contribute to the Association's many functions. Also, as Ms. Culver's supporters were quick to point out, she ran the same

risk of losing her seat on the Board of Governors, if she had lost the election.

President Culver (Mrs. John H.) hails from Thiensville, Wisconsin. Among her many duties will be supervision or responsibility for the functions of headquarters, library, a rapidly growing museum, an ongoing youth program, the A. N. A. Certification Service, the expanding monthly publication, and handling of the multi-million dollar Annual Convention. All this and more will call for 24 months of her most strenuous efforts. Congratulations, Virginia! You not only won a point for Women's Lib, but for democracy as well!

Finds of Numismatic Finery

In our continuing search for unusual gifts, related to coin collecting, your *Newsletter's* reporters have discovered two more items which would be ideal to give or to receive.

First, a pendant fashioned from the 19th century Morgan Silver Dollar, gilded with 18 kt. Gold Vermeil—which gives it the look and long life of solid gold. The sculptured golden chain is 19 inches long, and the coin is further enhanced by a braided wreath of gold. It comes gift-boxed, at $20, from H. N. Drew, Dept. NY-20, 9 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, N. Y. 10601.

SILVER DOLLAR PENDANT

EARRINGS
Replicas of Ancient Dutch Coins

Another pendant is our second find—and it comes with earrings sure to delight any feminine heart. These are replicas of ancient Dutch coins, in silver finish. Earrings are available in clip or pierced styles at $5.75 from Shopping International, Norwich, Vermont, 05055.

Again we remind subscribers to search local museums and gift shops for unusual gift items fashioned from coins. These are especially welcomed by loved ones and friends who know you are a coin collector. To them it will mean that you want to include them in your very specialized and unique hobby!

Canada Has Its Own Numismatic Park

Canadian coin collectors can boast of their own national park, in Sudbury, Ontario, the "nickel capital of the world."

Sudbury is the site of a rich mining area which not only has nickel, but also silver, gold, platinum, iron, cobalt, selenium, copper, tellurium and palladium.

Features of the park include giant coins in replica like a huge 30-foot-high nickel, a ten-foot-high Kennedy half dollar and a ten-foot-high Lincoln Memorial cent.

Also popular with sight-seers is an underground tour, where visitors can observe methods of ore extraction.

United States astronauts used the Sudbury area as a training ground to learn how to gather rock samples.

The site is believed by historians and archaeologists to be that of a crater formed by an ancient meteorite, or possibly the center of an extinct volcano. Either theory would account for the fabulous riches of metals which are present in abundance in the area.

Haitian Coin Commemorates Christophe

Depicted here is the double gourde of Henri Christophe, 1820, with a laureate bust facing right.

This man was probably the most influential in all of Haiti's colorful political history. The son of slaves from West Africa, Henri Christophe was a slave himself who was sold to a Haitian innkeeper in 1793. After marrying the innkeeper's daughter he became a Haitian citizen and took part in the various revolutions going on in the small country at that time.

HAITIAN
(Gourde)

In 1807, Christophe became President of Haiti—and had himself promoted to the rank of

"King," and had his wife crowned as "Queen Marie Louise." Legends and folk songs abound about this imaginative royal couple.

The origin of the term "gourde" for coins of Haiti came about because Christophe confiscated all the actual vegetable gourds on the island and used them for money. Each gourd was valued at twenty sous and paid out for coffee. After a year, real coins were issued, but the name "gourde" stuck.

India Adds New Coin To Special Proof Set

The government of India has recently issued a new coin which joins its distinctive 25th Anniversary of Independence proof set. The new 20 Rupee is equal to $2.60, and shows two ears of wheat corn and the inscription "Grow More Food."

All of the coins in the set are unusually designed and would be valuable additions to any collector's treasures.

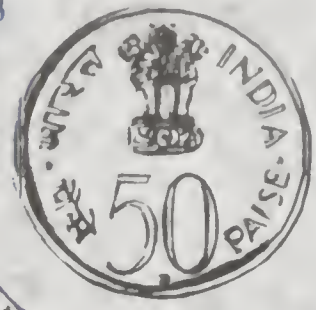
Some have scalloped edges or are square or hexagonal. They can be ordered from the Indian Government in Bombay. Also, some American

20 RUPEE
(OBVERSE)

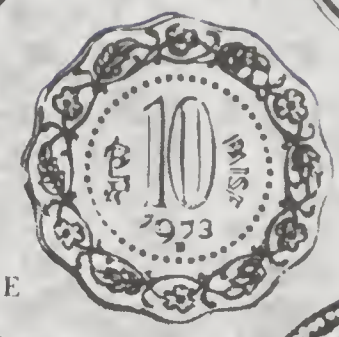
20 RUPEE
(REVERSE)

INDIA'S PROOF SET-1973

1 PAISA



50 PAISE



10 PAISE

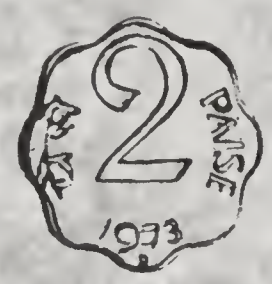
10 RUPEE

1 RUPEE

25 PAISE

3 PAISE

5 PAISE



2 PAISE

dealers have sets available. Prices are under $25 for the complete set, and individual coins may be ordered separately.

All of these coins, in denominations from one paisa to 20 rupees, are silver.

Recently Minted Coins In The News

Among the many new coins being issued by large and small nations around the world, we show, on the next page, some of the most unusual and beautiful specimens.

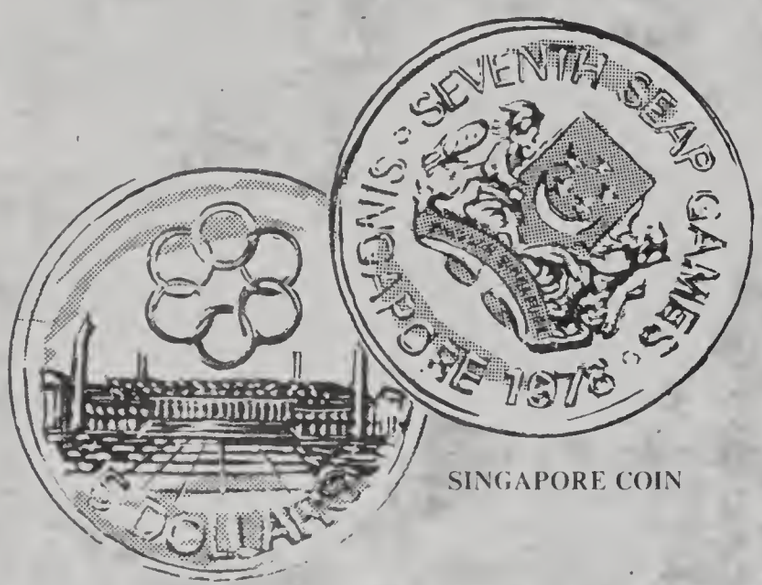
The silver 5 leva from Bulgaria bears that country's coat of arms and the date on its obverse. The reverse bears a legend which, translated, reads

BULGARIAN COINS

"September Antifascist Uprising / 1923." This coin can be purchased by contacting Italcombio, PO Box 1798, 6830 Chiasso, Switzerland.

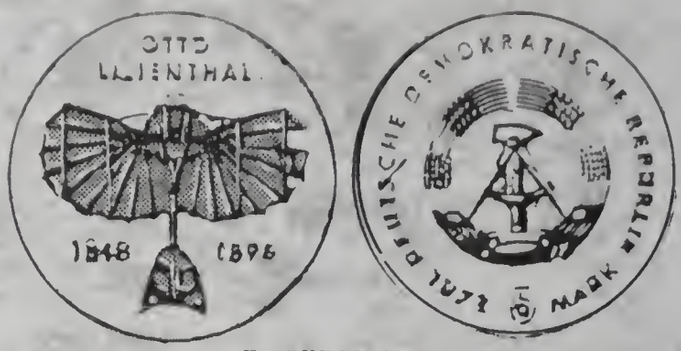
CZECH COIN

From Czechoslovakia comes this silver 50 korun coin which shows a bust of Josef Jungmann, the dates 1773—1973 on the obverse, and the state emblem on the reverse, with the numeral 50 at the bottom.



SINGAPORE COIN

Singapore has recently minted a silver five dollar coin, shown here, which is singularly beautiful. It shows the coat of arms on the reverse and the United Nations seal of unity of the obverse.



E. GERMAN COIN

East Germany has recently issued this cupronickel 5 mark coin commemorating the Lilienthal Glider on the obverse, with the dates 1848-1896. The reverse shows the coat of arms of the German Democratic Republic. Lilienthal was a pioneer inventor in aviation history.

—SMALL CHANGE—

...Some Little Known Facts About Coins & Currency...

● The term "Almighty Dollar" was probably first used by Washington Irving in the Creole Village Inn, Wolfert's Roost, in 1837. Ben Jonson also spoke of the "Almighty Gold."

● The term "bankrupt" comes from the Italian word for the breaking of a table or workbench. When money lenders were unable to meet their debts, angry citizens broke their tables—thus the term "bancarotta" or "bankrupt" was coined.

● The number 666 has many legendary connotations which relate to numismatics. It appears on many Roman coins of Nero and Neron Caesar. It is sometimes called "the number of the beast," mentioned in the Bible in Revelations XIV, 18. Biblical historians also point out that it is very close to the holy number seven.

● Another Biblical numismatic quote: "Give me neither poverty nor riches." Agur's wish, Proverbs XXX, 8.

● The Daniel Boone commemorative half dollar was designed by artist Augustus Lukeman.

● Peter the Great once placed a tax on beards, and the Russian coinage later commemorated his act. He was trying to encourage shaving in Russia.

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